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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention relates generally to compositions and methods for the treatment of body weight disorders including, but not limited to, obesity. More specifically, the present invention relates to nucleic acids encoding a human UCP2 polypeptide; a human UCP2 polypeptides encoded by such nucleic acids; recombinant nucleic acid molecules containing nucleic acids encoding a human UCP2 polypeptide; cells containing such recombinant nucleic acid molecules; a method for producing human UCP2 polypeptides; and
10 methods for detecting modulators of *UCP2* gene expression and UCP2 polypeptide expression.